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BOOK REVIEWS

Macmillan's Elementary Latin-English Dictionary. By THE REV. G. H. NALL. New York: The Macmillan Company
Price \$1.

COLLEGE students unquestionably need a new English-Latin lexicon. Harpers' is the only one to cover all the authors read in even undergraduate courses, and Harpers' is now further behind the times than its predecessor, Andrews', was in 1879, when Lewis and Short made the present revision. Lewis' *School Dictionary* (1888) is an excellent piece of work so far as it goes, but of the authors commonly read in our colleges it takes no account of Plautus, Lucretius, Catullus, Pliny, and the larger works of Tacitus. Lewis' *Elementary Dictionary* (1890) extends its vocabulary to include Catullus and Tacitus, but, besides ignoring Plautus and Pliny, it omits proper nouns and adjectives, to the sore distress of the student of Horace and Ovid. It also restricts illustrative material to the narrowest limits. No one of these is sufficient for the needs of the undergraduate: together, even, they will not answer all his questions as to the forms, meanings, constructions, and pronunciation of the words he finds in college classics.

Such a student will find no additional help in Mr. Nall's dictionary. In vocabulary it is inferior to the briefest of the three named above, Lewis' *School Dictionary*, giving in addition, it is true, the words used by Catullus, but omitting those of Terence, Juvenal, Curtius, Tacitus, and parts (not named) of Cicero. It is intended, according to the preface, to take the place of the special vocabularies appended to the editions used in English schools, and to accomplish this relies upon its distinct and attractive typography, and especially upon its marvelously low price.

Mr. Nall's dictionary is unquestionably an improvement upon the special vocabularies in English schoolbooks, so far as these are known to me, but it will not stand comparison with the vocabularies of our better American editions. True, our American editions of Livy, Horace, and Catullus are not supplied with special vocabularies, but the

few students who read these authors in our secondary schools will practice economy by buying one of Lewis' dictionaries at from twice to five times the price of Mr. Nall's. In the dictionary of Mr. Nall they will find meager definitions, illustrative examples so few as to be of little or no service in their composition lessons, quantities marked for metrical purposes only (*e. g.*, *cōnicio*, *mons*, *quintus*, *regnum*), not for pronunciation, and they will not seldom miss words for which they look (*e. g.*, *fello*, *lotium*, *inrumator*, *peditum*, etc., in Catullus). A low price is not enough to make up for defects such as these.

H. W. JOHNSTON

THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Specimens of the Pre-Shakespearean Drama, with an Introduction, Notes, and a Glossary. By JOHN MATTHEWS MANLY, Professor in Brown University. The Athenæum Press Series. In two volumes. Ginn & Co.

EVERY teacher of English appreciates the advantages of giving to his students a first-hand knowledge of an author, or of a period in literature. Unless a large library is at hand, it is frequently difficult for an instructor to supply his classes with the literature that will provide this first-hand knowledge. The difficulty is especially apparent in the presentation of early Saxon, and, in fact, of all Pre-Shakespearean literature. These volumes by Professor Manly remove many of the difficulties in studying this early period. They contain the best productions, in part or in whole, beginning with fragments of the earliest liturgical plays, and extending through the miracle, mystery, and moral plays, and the interlude, to the final comedy and tragedy of the Elizabethan age. The specimens are carefully chosen, and are thoroughly adapted to a first-hand study of the development of the English drama.

F. D. NICHOLS

THE MORGAN PARK ACADEMY